

Committee of the Whole

December 09, 2014

The Committee of the Whole met Tuesday, December 09, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Quorum Court Room, County Administration Building, Third Floor, 215 East Central, Bentonville, Arkansas.

12 JPs Present: McKenzie, J. Harrison, Allen, K. Harrison,
Adams, Sandlin, Chiocco, Curry, Carr,
Moore, Meyers, Moehring
3 Absent: Hernandez, Jones, Anglin

Others Present: County Judge Bob Clinard, Administrator of Public Safety Jeff Clark, Administrator of Public Services Marshall Watson, OEC Director Michael DeRose, Comptroller Brenda Guenther, Accounting Manager Mike Crandall

Media: Tom Sissom - Daily Record

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

JP J. Harrison made motion to suspend the rules and read all ordinances and resolutions by title only, seconded by JP Carr.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

A. Ordinance Request: Delinquent Timber Taxes; Sponsor: JP Barry Moehring

JP Moore read the proposed resolution by title only.

JP Moehring made motion to approve and forward the proposed ordinance to the December 18, 2014 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP J. Harrison

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

B. Discussion: Per Diem Compensation for Justices of the Peace

JP Kurt Moore read the proposed ordinance by title only.

JP Curry stated that he had discussed the raises with his constituents and heard no objections. He said that the Quorum Court members have not had a raise since 2009, and that the one before that was in 2004. JP Curry made motion to approve and forward the proposed ordinance to the December 18, 2014 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Carr.

Some discussion was had on the prepared ordinance to increase the per diem compensation for the Justice of the Peace.

JP Moehring stated that he had objections to the sitting justices of the peace voting to give themselves raises and that he really struggles with voting for a raise for himself, and he would oppose the ordinance. He then made motion to amend Article 5 of the proposed ordinance, to change the effective date to January 1, 2017.

Motion died for lack of second.

JP Allen commented that in he has mixed feelings on the question and that he would not vote for the per diem increase. He stated that he can see both sides, and he is torn, but if you put it in perspective, you can easily see that the Quorum Court members are very much behind the others in the state and locally.

JP Moehring stated that regardless of how the vote goes tonight, he would encourage the court to come up with a systematic way to address this issue.

After lengthy discussion by several JP's regarding increasing the per diem compensation for the justice of the peace. Comptroller Brenda Guenther reported that the per diem increase proposal will raise the pay for justices of the peace who attend Quorum Court and Committee of the Whole meetings from \$175 to \$200 and increase the pay for committee members from \$100 to \$125 for committee meetings. She stated that the overall cost to the county is estimated at about \$16,425.

There being no further discussion, a roll call vote was recorded as follows:

9 Yeas:	McKenzie, K. Harrison, Adams, Sandlin, Chiocco, Curry, Carr, Moore, Meyers
3 Nays:	J. Harrison, Allen, Moehring
3 Absent:	Hernandez, Jones, Anglin,

Motion passed.

C. Appropriation Ordinance Request: Establishing the Benton County Annual Operating Budget for the Calendar Year 2015; Sponsor: JP Tom Allen

JP Allen thanked all of those involved with the 2015 Budget process, the Elected Officials and Department Heads by reducing their budgets and making the process go more smoothly.

JP Allen made motion to approve the 2015 budget, and to include the proposed ordinance to increase the per diem and forward to the December 18, 2015 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Carr.

Brenda Guenther reported that we received an additional grant today that will become effective January 1, 2015 and that they will need to add a new fund in the other fund section. Accounting Manager Mike Crandall stated that this is for the Alternate Dispute Resolution Grant for \$5,000 for Circuit Judge Scott.

JP Allen made motion to amend the 2015 Budget to include the Alternate Dispute Resolution Grant fund to be added to the 2015 budget.

Motion passed by a unanimous show of hands vote.

County Judge Bob Clinard reported that they had received five bids for removing mold and other microbial growth at the Sheriff's Office. He stated that Indoor Air Technologies, Inc. from New York had submitted the low bid doing all the work for \$116,000. He stated in the work process that the county will furnish the painting, carpentry and carpet work.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JP Chiocco announced that a Grievance Council meeting will be held Monday, December 15, 2014 at 6:15 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.